

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of monitoring the operation of a ~~prothetic~~ prosthetic assist device, the method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) utilising a non invasive device to monitor or serially measure directly the blood flow through at least one heart ventricle;
  - (b) separately monitoring the blood flow through the ~~prothetic~~ prosthetic assist device;  
and
  - (c) combining said two measurements to determine an overall native to prosthetic flow index.
2. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said non invasive device monitoring or serial measurement comprises continuous wave Doppler flow monitoring of the heart.
3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the heart is monitored or serially measured from a transducer placed adjacent the suprasternal notch.
4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said method is repeated under a number of different operational conditions for a patient including walking and/or running.
5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said method is repeated under a number of different pharmacological conditions for a patient.